## Message Text

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PAGE 01 BELGRA 06375 311230Z ACTION COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7789

**UNCLAS BELGRADE 6375** 

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BENC, BTIO, YO

SUBJECT: MAJOR PROJECT: ALUMINUM SMELTER IN SLOVENIA

REF: A. STATE 206232, B. BELGRADE 5148

1. DURING VISIT TO "BORIS KIDRIC" ALUMINUM WORKS IN KIDRICEVO, SLOVENIA, ON JUNE 23, MILAN KRAJNIK, GENERAL DIRECTOR, DESCRIBED IN DETAIL TO EMBASSY E/C COUNSELOR EXPANSION PROGRAM COVERED IN REF. B. AT THAT TIME, KRAJNIK SPECIFICALLY STATED THAT "BORIS KIDRIC" HAD RECENTLY BEEN IN CONTACT WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF REYNOLDS ALUMINUM, THROUGH REYNOLDS' HAMBURG PLANT, AND THAT YUGOSLAVS WERE DEFINITELY INTERESTED IN OBTAINING THIS TYPE OF ADVANCED EQUIPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY. HOWEVER, KRAJNIK EMPHASIZED THAT YUGOSLAVS WOULD PREFER TO DEAL DIRECTLY WITH AN AMERICAN SOURCE RATHER THAN THROUGH A WEST EUROPEAN SUBSIDIARY. AT THAT TIME, KRAJNIK DID NOT MENTION ANY RESTRICTIONS ON FINANCING OF PRUCHASES OR ANY LIMITATIONS ON SOURCES OF EQUIPMENT. IN FACT, HE LEFT CLEAR IMPRESSION THAT DECISION HAD BEEN MADE TO OBTAIN BOTH TECHNOLOGY AND EQUIPMENT FROM THE WEST--PREFEREBLY THE U.S.--AND PROUDLY POINTED OUT WHERE REYNOLDS (OR SIMILAR TYPE) EOUIPMENT IS TO BE INSTALLED. WHEN E/C COUNSELOR ASKED ABOUT FINANCING FOR SUCH A MAJOR UNDERTAKING, KRAJNIK REPLIED THAT THIS WOULD BE NO PROBLEM, AND THAT PART WOULD BE HANDLED BY "BORIS KIDRIC" ITSELF AND PART BY THE REPUBLIC OF SLOVENIA.

2. IN LIGHT OF REF A, WE WILL ATTEMPT TO CONFIRM INFORMATION UNCLASSIFIED

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SUPPLIED BY KRAJNIK AND TO DETERMINE MORE PRECISELY HOW PROJECT IS TO BE FINANCED AND WHETHER DECISIONS ON EQUIPMENT PURCHASES HAVE BEEN MADE.

EAGLEBURGER

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